

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-03 H-01 SSO-00 /015 W

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O 271615Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6786

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (FRACZEK, JOSEPH; EICHELBERGER, ANN MARIE; BOYKING,
WILLIAM LAWRENCE, ESTHER)

SUBJ: W/W FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 038294

1. IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO UTILIZE SERVICES OF AID OFFICER
SINCE DCM (ALSO COMMISSIONED CONSULAR OFFICER) PROCEEDED
DOMINICA MORNING FEB 27 AND WILL TAKE APPLICATIONS FOR RE-
PATRIATION AND HAVE PROMISSORY NOTES EXECUTED AT SAME TIME
IN EVENT DEPT EVENTUALLY APPROVES OF LOANS.
2. GROUP ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO TRAVEL FROM DOMINICA TO JAMAICA
BY INTER-ISLAND CARGO SHIP WHICH LEFT FEB 26. THEY HAD
SUFFICIENT FUNDS, BEFORE BEING ROBBED, TO COVER COST OF
THEIR TRANSPORTATION. THEY HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM
CONTACTS IN JAMAICA TO CONTINUE TRAVEL.
3. DOMINICA POLICE HAVE VERIFIED THAT CLAIMED INCIDENT ACTUALLY
TOOK PLACE AND THAT ALL FOUR ARE USCS IN POSSESSION OF PASSPORTS.
4. IN VIEW OF UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONOFF DECIDED TO REQUEST
DEPTS APPROVAL OF REPAY LOANS ON BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION
FROM TELCON WITH FRACZEK IN HOPE THAT DEPT WOULD REACT
SYMPATHETICALLY TO REQUEST. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND
CONDITIONS, CONOFF WOULD HAVE RELIGIOUSLY FOLLOWED STEP-BY-
STEP PROCEDURE REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS.
5. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE CABLED WHEN DCM RETURNS EMBASSY

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FEB 28.

6. NEWS JUST RECEIVED FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER DOMINICA THAT ANOTHER AMERICAN JOHN ALBERT JIRASEK WAS SHOT IN DOMINICA LAST NIGHT IN ABDOMEN AND IS BEING PREPARED FOR SURGERY. CALLS FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS WILL BE MET BY MEMBERS OF LOCAL POLICE. ANOTHER AMERICAN, ALAN GIGHE, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO SPANISH MALES AND AN ENGLISHMAN WERE STONED IN DOMINICA LAST NIGHT REQUIRING GIGHE'S HOSPITALIZATION AND STITCHES FOR HEAD INJURIES. FURTHER INFO RE THESE NEW INCIDENTS WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS FURTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM POLICE.

COMMENT

ASSUME SCS APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S DIFFICULTY IN DEALING WITH APPLICANTS WHO ARE IN OTHER ISLANDS IN OUR FAR FLUNG CONSULAR DISTRICT. DISTANCES, SHORTAGE OF TRAVEL FUNDS AND AVAILABILITY OF OFFICER STAFF MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH EACH CASE ON PERSON-TO-PERSON BASIS. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ISLANDS ARE NOT OVERLY EFFICIENT NOR RELIABLE AND CASES SIMILAR TO THAT PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION MUST OFTEN BE HANDLED BY TELEPHONE AND IN ANY NOVEL MANNER BEST SUITED TO SITUATION. FOR INSTANCE CONOFFS TELCON YESTERDAY WITH FRACZEK WAS DISCONNECTED SEVERAL TIMES TOOK CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 15 MINUTES TO COMPLETE, AND WAS GENERALLY UNSATISFACTORY.

TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO CITIZENS AND OTHERS IN THIS AREA, IT IS SOMETIMES NOT POSSIBLE TO PROCESS CASES IN THE NORMAL APPROVED REGULATION WAY.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DEPT AUTHORIZE REPAT OF GROUP IF DCM CONCURS THAT SITUATION REQUIRES SUCH ACTION.
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